

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 00627 270852Z

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CU-02 /013 W

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R 270810Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8332

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PLEASE PASS VO AND EA/ROC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: TDY ASSISTANCE FOR SUMMER 1976 ON STUDENT VISAS

SUMMARY: ANTICIPATED INCREASED NIV (STUDENTS) WORKLOAD WILL REQUIRE ONE TDY U.S. OFFICER AND TWO LOCAL PIT'S FOR TAIPEI DURING THE SUMMER OF 1976. FAILURE TO PROVIDE FOR THIS SITUATION WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN A PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM OF SIGNIFICANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE VISA OFFICE HAS A FEW POSITIONS STAFFED TO RENDER TDY ASSISTANCE TO POSTS WHICH FACE PEAK PERIOD VISA PROCESSING PROBLEMS FOR WHICH THE NUMBER OF NORMAL STAFF IS TOTALLY INADEQUATE. POST BELIEVES IT WILL FACE A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN STUDENT VISA APPLICATIONS NEXT SUMMER AND WILL REQUIRE TDY ASSISTANCE.

2. UNTIL NOW THE GROC STRICTLY LIMITED THE NUMBER OF ITS NATIONALS WHO COULD STUDY ABROAD BY REQUIRING (A) THAT THEY BE GRADUATES HERE OF RECOGNIZED UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES, AND (B) THAT THEY PASS A DIFFICULT EXAMINATION ADMINISTERED BY THE ROC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OR OBTAIN A SCHOLAR SHIP FROM A FOREIGN SCHOOL, BEFORE THEY WOULD BE ISSUED "STUDENT" PASSPORTS. AS A RESULT, THIS POST HAS ISSUED F-1 STUDENT VISAS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO HOLDERS OF ROC "STUDENT" PASSPORTS (MEANING STUDENT VISAS ISSUED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO INTENDING GRADUATE STUDENTS).

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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 00627 270852Z

3. RECENT EXPERIENCE HERE INDICATES POST NORMALLY WOULD EXPECT TO PROCESS ABOUT 10,000 NIV APPLICATIONS FROM JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1976. OF THIS TOTAL, PAST EXPERIENCE WOULD ALSO INDICATE POST WOULD HAVE TO INTERVIEW FROM JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1976, ABOUT 2,500 STUDENT VISA APPLICANTS. UNFORTUNATELY, STUDENTS FROM TAIWAN HAVE TENDED TO ADJUST STATUS EVENTUALLY IN THE U.S. A LIMITED SURVEY OF G-325'S RECEIVED HERE RECENTLY SHOWS THAT AFTER BEING ADMITTED TO GRADUATE SCHOOLS (ABOUT THE ONLY TYPE OF APPLICANT WE ISSUE F-1'S TO), AN ESTIMATED ONE-THIRD TO ONE-HALF OF THE CHINESE STUDENTS FROM TAIWAN APPLY FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS AFTER HAVING BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES FOR FROM THREE TO FIVE YEARS. THIS MEANS VISA INTERVIEWS (HOWEVER "UNSUCCESSFUL" IN HINDSIGHT) MUST BE CONDUCTED WITH EXTREME CARE; THIS IS TIME CONSUMING. AGAIN AN ESTIMATE BUT IT APPEARS ACCURATE THAT POST IS OBLIGED TO SPEND ABOUT ONE-HALF AVAILABLE OFFICER TIME ON NIV VISA INTERVIEWS -- IN THE PAST ONE-HALF OF THIS TIME SPENT FOR 7,500 NON-STUDENT VISA APPLICANTS AND THE OTHER ONE-HALF SPENT FOR 2,500 STUDENT VISA APPLICANTS. EMBASSY COULD HANDLE THIS SAME LEVEL OF WORKLOAD WITH PRESENT STAFF AND ONE SUMMER SECRETARY. HOWEVER, THE CANCELLATION OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION MENTIONED ABOVE IS CERTAIN TO HAVE A DRAMATIC EFFECT ON THE 1976 PICTURE. CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES HERE (INCLUDING ONE FROM A KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIAL OF THE ROC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION) ARE THAT WE WILL HAVE DOUBLE THE PREVIOUS NUMBER OF STUDENT VISA APPLICANTS. BECAUSE OF THE EXPECTATIONS GENERATED BY CANCELLATION OF THE EXAMINATION, WE BELIEVE THAT MANY OF THESE STUDENTS, PROBABLY 5,000, WILL APPLY DURING THE SUMMER/EARLY FALL PERIOD OF 1976. MORE PESSIMISTIC ESTIMATES RANGE TO 8,000 STUDENT VISA APPLICATIONS DURING THIS PERIOD BASED ON SPECULATION THAT MANY OF THE CHINESE STUDENTS WHO DID NOT PASS THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION IN PAST YEARS WILL NOW SURFACE AGAIN AND OBTAIN STUDENT PASSPORTS FROM THE GROC. FIVE THOUSAND (5,000 STUDENT VISA APPLICANTS WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE 850 TO 1,000 MAN-HOURS EXTRA INTERVIEWING TIME NEXT SUMMER. POST CAN HANDLE SOME EXPANSION IN WORKLOAD BUT NOT THAT MUCH.

4. FYI: DUE TO CHINESE SENSITIVITIES, NONIMMIGRANT VISA  
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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 00627 270852Z

ISSUANCE IS A HOT PUBLIC RELATIONS ISSUE HERE AT ALL TIMES  
AND STUDENT VISA ISSUANCE IS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SUBJECT  
HAVING SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL/POLITICAL OVERTONES. WE ARE CERTAIN TO CATCH

FLAK IF THINGS GO WRONG BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE  
PREPARATION WHICH IN THIS CASE MEANS STAFF. A NEGATIVE  
REACTION IN THE ROC COULD EASILY BE OUT OF PROPORTION TO  
ANY ACTUAL ISSUE. END FYI.

5. POST PLANS TO ESTABLISH THREE VISA LINES NEXT SUMMER -- ONE FULL-TIME NON-STUDENT VISA LINE AND ANOTHER FULL-TIME STUDENT VISA LINE. THE THIRD LINE WILL BE SWITCH FROM ONE CATEGORY TO THE OTHER AS REQUIRED BY WORKLOAD ON ANY GIVEN DAY. WILL HAVE TWO OFFICERS WORKING FULL-TIME IN THE NIV UNIT AT THE EXPENSE SOMEWHAT OF IV WORK. WE ARE CERTAIN A TDY OFFICER WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE THIRD LINE. ON THE LOCAL EMPLOYEE SIDE, WE COULD, WITH DIFFICULTY, DEFER ISSUANCE OF SOME IV'S IN THE SUMMER MONTHS UNTIL THE FALL AND TRANSFER PERHAPS TWO LOCAL POSITIONS IN THE IV UNIT TO THE NIV UNIT TEMPORARILY. WE BELIEVE WE WOULD STILL NEED TWO PIT'S.

6. ACTION REQUESTED:

- (A) PLEASE RESERVE, IF POSSIBLE, ONE AMERICAN TDY OFFICER FOR TAIPEI FROM JUNE 15 TO SEPTEMBER 15, 1976.
- (B) ADVISE US IF WE MAY HAVE STANDBY AUTHORITY TO HIRE TWO PIT'S FOR A MAXIMUM OF 90 DAYS DURING THIS SAME PERIOD; WE WOULD NOT IN FACT HIRE THEM UNTIL ESSENTIAL AND ONLY FOR THE MINIMUM PERIOD REQUIRED. POPPLE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, TRAVEL CONTROLS, STUDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TAIPEI00627  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760030-0611  
**From:** TAIPEI  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760116/aaaaanpz.tel  
**Line Count:** 135  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION VO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TDY ASSISTANCE FOR SUMMER 1976 ON STUDENT VISAS SUMMARY: ANTICIPATED INCREASED NIV (STUDENTS) WORKLOAD WILL  
**TAGS:** CVIS, PFOR, TW, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006